

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 DHA-02

DPW-01 IO-13 /080 W

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P R 100850Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8327

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 4257

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SW

SUBJECT: GOS CONCERN OVER SWEDES IN TEL ZAATAR CAMP

REF: (A) USUN 3135, (B) BEIRUT 6625, (C) STOCKHOLM 3871

1. DURING CALL BY POLCOUNS, MFA ACTING DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS KNUT THYBERG RAISED PLIGHT OF TWO SWEDISH DOCTORS IN TEL ZAATAR CAMP. THYBERG SAID GOS IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM SWEDISH PUBLIC OPINION TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE DOCTORS. MFA OFFICIALS HAD BEEN INFORMED BY EVA STAHL, WOUNDED SWEDISH NURSE WHO WAS SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATED BY RED CROSS LAST WEEK, THAT CONDITION OF DOCTORS IS "DETERIORATING" AS A RESULT OF CONTINUOUS SHELLING AND LACK OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO ADEQUATELY ADMINISTER TO WOUNDED AND DYING. AT TIME OF HER DEPARTURE THEY SEEMED TO BE LISTLESS AND APATHETIC, SHE TOLD MFA. PARENTS OF TWO DOCTORS ARE REPORTEDLY CALLING MFA, WHICH IS ALSO RECEIVING HUNDREDS OF LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS FROM CONCERNED SWEDES.

2. POLCOUNS ASKED WHAT MEASURES GOS IS TAKING IN BEHALF OF DOCTORS. THYBERG REPLIED THAT GOS IS CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPLORING "EVERY AVENUE" IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN THEIR

EVACUATION FROM CAMP. HE SAID HE PERSONALLY HAD CALLED RED CROSS IN GENEVA 10 TIMES DURING COURSE OF DAY, TRYING TO PASS MESSAGE TO LEADERS OF CHRISTIAN FORCES TO TREAT THE TWO DOCTORS HUMANELY.

3. WHAT PARTICULARLY CONCERNS GOS, THYBERG CONTINUED, IS POSSIBILITY THAT IF CHRISTIAN FORCES STORM CAMP, THERE MAY BE MASS EXECUTIONS. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT TWO DOCTRS HAD SIDED WITH PALESTINIANS, THYBERG EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WERE NON-COMBATANTS, AND HAD GONE TO LEBANON SECRETLY LAST SPRING FOR A MIXTURE OF POLITICAL AND HUMANITARIAN REASONS. IN EVENT THE CAMP IS STORMED OR CAPITULATES, THYBERG SAID, GOS HOPES THAT CAMP'S CONQUERORS WOULD SPARE LIVES OF NON-COMBATANTS, SUCH AS THE TWO DOCTORS.

4. THYBERG SAID SWEDISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE "DEEPLY GRATEFUL" FOR ANYTHING USG COULD DO IN GETTING MESSAGE CHRISTIANS TO SPARE LIVES OF THE SWEDISH DOCTORS. HE SPECULATED THAT IF CAMP WERE TO FALL, PRIME MINISTER PALME MIGHT MAKE PERSONAL APPEAL TO USG TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO SAVE LIVES OF THE TWO SWEDES.

5. POLCOUNS PROMISED TO CONVEY GOS REQUEST AND ITS EXPRESSION OF CONCERN RE FATE OF TWO SWEDISH DOCTORS TO DEPARTMENT.
SMITH

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NNN

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